

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

STR-08 INT-08 SCEM-02 SCI-06 IGA-02 DRC-01 /225 W

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SUBJ: INFORMATION ON EFFECTS ENERGY SITUATION ON AGRICULTURAL
TRADE

REF: FASTO CIRC 296.

TOFAS NO. 52. 1. AUSTRIAN AGRICULTURE MINISTER WEIHS STATED
RECENTLY THAT THANKS TO RECORD 1973 GRAIN CROPS, HIGH SUGAR
PRODUCTION, AMPLE SUPPLIES MILK, DAIRY PRODUCTS AND MEAT STOCKS,
NO SHORTAGES THESE STAPLE ITEMS LIKELY IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE.
OCCASIONAL SCARCITIES FLOUR, PASTRY PRODUCTS AND RICE DUE TO
HOARDING PURCHASES BY HOUSEHOLDS RATHER THAN UNDERSUPPLY.

2. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT IN CASE OF SEVERE FUEL SHORTAGE
AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD TRANSPORT AND PROCESSING OPERATIONS WILL
HAVE HIGH PRIORITY IN DRAWING FUEL SUPPLIES.

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3. COUNTRY CONTINUES HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON IMPORTS VEGETABLE

OILS AND PROTEIN FEEDS, MAINLY SOYBEAN MEAL. AUTHORITIES HOPE FLOW OF SUPPLIES THESE ITEMS FROM TRADITIONAL EXPORTING COUNTRIES WILL REMAIN UNAFFECTED BY OIL CRISIS, BUT ARE AWARE THAT CUTBACK SOYBEAN PROCESSING IN WESTERN EUROPE MIGHT CREATE EMERGENCY. AUSTRIA HAS NO CRUSHING FACILITIES OF ITS OWN.

4. MAJOR ENERGY CONSERVING ACTIONS THUS FAR HAVE BEEN CONFINED TO IMPOSITION SPEED LIMITS FOR AUTOMOBILES AND AN APPEAL TO FILLING STATIONS TO KEEP CLOSED SUNDAYS. DISTRIBUTION OF BUNKER "C" OIL MAY BE SUBJECTED TO CONTROLS IF PROJECTED VOLUNTARY QUOTA SYSTEM FAILS TO WORK AS ANTICIPATED. GENERAL RATIONING PETROLEUM PRODUCTS CONSIDERED LAST RESORT.

5. BARRING SERIOUS DISRUPTION OR BREAKDOWN INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT SYSTEM, DIRECT IMPORTS OF U.S. AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES SHOULD CONTINUE NORMAL IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE. MAJOR IMPORTS INCLUDE SOYBEAN MEAL, FRUIT PRESERVES, RAW TOBACCO, CORN FOR INDUSTRIAL USES, BUT TOTAL IMPORT VOLUME RELATIVELY SMALL, I.E., \$30.7 MILLION IN 1972. NONE OF THESE ITEMS LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED BY FUEL SHORTAGE AT LEAST IN SHORT TERM. BIG QUESTION HOWEVER IS POSSIBLE IMPACT OF FUEL SHORTAGE IN EC (MAINLY GERMANY) ON PROCESSORS OF U.S. SOYBEANS THERE FOR EXPORT TO AUSTRIA. THIS SOURCE ACCOUNTS FOR 40 - 45 PERCENT OF TOTAL AUSTRIAN IMPORTS OF SOYBEAN MEAL AND FOR 95 - 100 PER CENT OF SOYBEAN OIL IMPORTS.

6. WHILE AUSTRIA PURCHASED 75,000 MT OF U.S. WHEAT LAST SEASON, THERE ARE NO PRESENT PLANS TO BUY U.S. WHEAT THIS SEASON. REASONS ARE THAT QUALITY DOMESTIC WHEAT EXCELLENT AND PRICES U.S. WHEAT CONSIDERED TOO HIGH.

7. AUSTRIA HAS NOT IMPORTED NOR WILL IT IMPORT RAW COTTON FROM U.S. DUE TO VIRTUAL NON-AVAILABILITY OF STAPLE LENGTHS OF 1 1/16 IN. AND OVER REQUIRED BY LOCAL MANUFACTURERS.

8. SPINNING MILLS FACED WITH SERIOUS PROBLEM RESULTING FROM CUTBACK SYNTHETIC FIBER DELIVERIES BY GERMANY, EXORBITANT PRICES FOR RAW COTTON WHICH STRICTLY LIMIT SCOPE FOR SWITCHING TO THIS MATERIAL, EXPORT EMBARGOES IMPOSED BY CERTAIN COTTON PRODUCING COUNTRIES, AND THREATENING FUEL SHORTAGE AS

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REFINERIES IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES CURTAIL TRADITIONAL DELIVERIES TO WESTERN AUSTRIA WHERE CONCENTRATION OF TEXTILE MILLS OCCURS. IN VIEW OF THESE FACTORS INDUSTRY QUARTERS SEE LITTLE OR NO CHANCE FOR LARGER COTTON USE IN MONTHS AHEAD. HUMES

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